UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2461
(BRA/78/006)
14 December 1979

ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF LARGE-SCALE UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL

Project title and number:	Development of Agricultural Production through the Application of Nuclear Technology (Phase II) (BRA/78/006)
Executing Agency:	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Government co-operating Agency:	National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN) and University of São Paulo
Date of approval:	October 1978
Estimated starting date for project operations:	January 1979
Duration:	Three years
Estimated value of the Government input expressed in US dollars:	$9 million (in kind)
Estimated UNDP contribution:	$469 800
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. A first phase of UNDP/IAEA assistance was provided to the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN) (September 1972 - December 1978) through the project "Development of agricultural production through the application of nuclear technology" (BRA/71/556)1/ for strengthening the CNEN's research and training activities.

2. The present Phase II project is envisaged mainly to consolidate the institutional capacity of CNEN by extending and enhacing its expertise, as well as to support activities that require follow-up action, namely in the fields of plant breeding, animal science, soil fertility, isotropic ecology and hydrology.

II. The project

3. The long-term objective of the project is to develop the country's natural resources and train the necessary scientific personnel in accordance with the Government's Second Plan for the Development of Science and Technology (II Plano Básico de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico). In this connexion the Government, through the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN), has consistently supported the use of nuclear techniques for agricultural and ecological research as a means of attacking problems which cannot easily, or at all, be solved by using conventional methods.

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1/ DP/SF/R.13/Add.84.

4. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) enhance the general capacity, training and skills of CNEN; (b) continue and emphasize support to the succesful mutation plant-breeding operation; (c) renew support to animal science which suffered unexpected set-backs during the first phase of the project; (d) extend support to isotopic hydrology/ecology for which important development studies in Amazonia and North-East Brazil are being undertaken; (e) follow up and strengthen the activities in soil studies.

5. UNDP will provide for the services of a project manager and consultants in hydrology, soil fertility and stable isotopes, as well as fellowships and equipment. To carry out the activities for which assistance has been approved, the Government of Brazil will provide qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, laboratory facilities, supplies and equipment, directly to the project.

6. The expenditure components of the UNDP contribution are as follows:

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Experts and administrative support personnel	281 800
Training	50 500
Equipment	133 000
Miscellaneous	4 500
	469 800 2/

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2/ During the three-year duration of the project the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will provide additional assistance estimated at $US240,000 from its regular programme for Brazil.